



City of Gary, Indiana

With the \$200,000 Brownfields Job Training and Development grant, the city of Gary plans to train 160 participants recruited from unemployed, underemployed, and other disadvantaged residents in the areas of the Empowerment Zone Development Site and the Airport Development Zone. These areas are the focus of the Gary Empowerment Zone and Brownfields Assessment Pilot, respectively. Neighborhoods near these areas are characterized by low-income households, old housing, and vacant buildings. Unemployment is 14 percent and the poverty rate is 25 percent. A former industrial center, the city has declined along with the decline of the steel industry, resulting in the abandonment of many factories and mill sites. Redevelopment activities are now occurring at major sites in the city. The 220-hour pilot training program will consist of health and safety, lead abatement, asbestos abatement, brownfields and environmental justice, construction trades, and innovative treatment technologies. The city of Gary has a first-source hiring ordinance that requires environmental contractors to hire residents from the city.